explore the possibility of future co-operation in regard to the National River Management Plan, with special reference to the Damodar River in West Bengal and Bihar and a forestry project for the Changer area in the Palampur district of Himachal Pradesh. Germany is assisting a drinking water supply project in Madhya Pradesh (DM 45 million) and have committed DM 95 million and DM 30 million for water supply projects in Rajasthan and West Bengal respectively.

Hunting of barking deer, wild boar and birds in Arunachal Pradesh

1719. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the illegal and large scale hunting of barking deer, wild boar and birds in Arunachal Pradesh by the local tribals;

(b) if so, what directions have been issued to the State Government to prevent the hunting of such wild animals and birds; and

(c) what other steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to change the hunting habits of tribals and to maintain ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No large scale hunting of barking deer, wild boar and birds has been reported from the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Section 9 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, prohibits hunting of wild animals listed under Schedule I to IV and Sec. 51 provides for punitive measures for infringement of the Act.

Apart from deterrent measures taken by the Government under the Act, the Govt. of India has also started schemes during 1992-93 to associate scheduled tribes and rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests with the aim of improving biomass resource base in such areas and for improving the economy of the poor. This will also provide alternative employment opportunities and divert the attention of the people so that people do not indulge in unhealthy activity of hunting of wild animals and inturn destroy the ecological balance of nature.

Solution of Kashmir Issue

1720. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U. S. Administration has lately clarified that U.S. does no longer favour plebiscite for a solution of the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan, adding that ever since 1965 war US. Government has never mentioned plebiscite to be the basis of a solution.

(b) if so, which of the other developed and developing countries have expressed themselves against plebiscite in regard to Kashmir problem; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken by Government to bring the different powers especially the members of U.N. Security Council, round to this point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Testifying before the Sub-Committee on Asia and Pacific of the US House of Representatives on 28 April, 1993 the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State said that after the 1965 India-Pakistan War, the US Government have not mentioned plebiscite one way or the other.

(b) and (c) Government have and